

CLAIMS

What is Claimed is:

1 1. A deceleration-limiting barrier, comprising:
2 a net;
3 anchors; and
4 a flexible strip arranged to secure the net to the anchors, with portions of the strip
5 joined together in a manner as to be susceptible to being pulled apart under a load that is less
6 than a load capacity of the strip.

1 2. The barrier of claim 1, wherein the portions of the strip are joined with
2 fasteners having a tensile strength that is less than a tensile strength of the strip.

1 3. The barrier of claim 1, wherein the fasteners are stitched into the portions of
2 the strip.

1 4. The barrier of claim 1, further comprising a first sacrificial panel adapted to
2 hold up the net in a vertical position.

1 5. The barrier of claim 4, wherein the first sacrificial panel includes a smooth
2 surface on one side.

1 6. The barrier of claim 4, further comprising a second sacrificial panel, the first
2 and second sacrificial panels sandwiching the net therebetween.

1 7. The barrier of claim 1, wherein a plurality of barriers are placed end-to-end
2 alongside a roadway.

1 8. The barrier of claim 1, wherein the strip provides a substantially constant
2 level of deceleration.

1 9. The barrier of claim 1, wherein the strip provides a non-constant level of
2 deceleration.

1 10. A barrier for limiting decelerating of a moving body, comprising:
2 means for receiving and retaining the moving body;
3 means for anchoring the receiving and retaining means; and
4 means for decelerating the moving body in a controlled manner to thereby limit the
5 deceleration thereof to below a predefined maximum deceleration level.

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1 11. The barrier of claim 10, further comprising means for holding up the
2 receiving means in a vertical position.

1 12. The barrier of claim 10, wherein the deceleration means provides a
2 substantially constant level of deceleration.

1 13. The barrier of claim 10, wherein the deceleration means provides a
2 non-constant level of deceleration.

1 14. A deceleration-limiting roadway barrier system, comprising:
2 a first row of barriers positioned end-to-end alongside a roadway;
3 a second row of barriers positioned end-to-end alongside the first row of barriers, the
4 barriers of the first row being staggered from the barriers of the second row;
5 a plurality of anchors fixedly mounted in the ground alongside the roadway; and
6 each barrier comprising a net and one or more flexible strips arranged to secure the
7 net to one or more anchors, with portions of each strip joined together in a manner as to be
8 susceptible to being pulled apart under a load that is less than a load capacity of the strip.

1 15. The roadway barrier system of claim 14, wherein each barrier further
2 comprises a first sacrificial panel adapted to hold up the net in a vertical position.

1 16. The roadway barrier system of claim 15, wherein the first sacrificial panel
2 includes a smooth surface on one side.

1 17. The roadway barrier system of claim 15, wherein each barrier further
2 comprises a second sacrificial panel, the first and second sacrificial panels sandwiching the
3 net therebetween.

1 18. The roadway barrier system of claim 14, wherein the strip provides a
2 substantially constant level of deceleration.

1 19. The roadway barrier system of claim 14, wherein the strip provides a
2 non-constant level of deceleration.

1 20. The roadway barrier system of claim 14, further comprising a plurality of
2 support members mounted alongside the first and second row of barriers.

1 21. The roadway barrier system of claim 14, wherein each barrier has a male
2 portion and a corresponding female portion of a mated joint.

1 22. A method of decelerating a moving body, comprising:
2 receiving the moving body in a net;
3 deploying a plurality of energy absorbing straps attached to the net;
4 decelerating the moving body using the energy absorbing straps; and
5 limiting the deceleration of the moving body to below a predefined maximum
6 deceleration level.

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1 23. The method of claim 22, further comprising supporting the net with a first
2 sacrificial panel that is also capable of deflecting moving bodies colliding tangentially
3 therewith.

1 24. The method of claim 23, further comprising sandwiching the net between the
2 first sacrificial panel and a second sacrificial panel.

1 25. The method of claim 22, further comprising anchoring a first row of nets
2 end-to-end alongside a roadway and a second row of nets end-to-end alongside the first row.

1 26. The method of claim 25, wherein the nets in the first row are staggered
2 relative to the nets in the second row.

1 27. The method of claim 22, further comprising decelerating the moving body at
2 a substantially constant deceleration.

1 28. The method of claim 22, further comprising decelerating the moving body at
2 a non-constant deceleration.